

# Suffolk Coastal District Council

## Council Tax Information 2017/18

### Message from Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal District Council



Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils recently agreed to merge to create a new 'super district' to deliver services to communities across east Suffolk.

Both councils are recognised for our innovative partnership working, which has allowed us to drastically reduce our staffing numbers and make joint saving of over £16 million since 2010, while safeguarding frontline services.

But we need to build on this success and focus on how we will successfully deliver our ambitious Business Plan, while supporting the local economy.

We are driving forward on all fronts. As well as the proposed merger with Waveney, Suffolk Coastal has also recently moved to new, more economical offices in Melton.

There are financial challenges ahead, but east Suffolk has a very strong economy. We are confident we can deliver quality services, while continuing to make efficiency savings and investing in the future.

I remain very positive about the future and believe this council has a key role to play in fostering a strong economy by helping businesses develop, driving the provision of more housing, particularly extra affordable homes, and creating new jobs in the district.

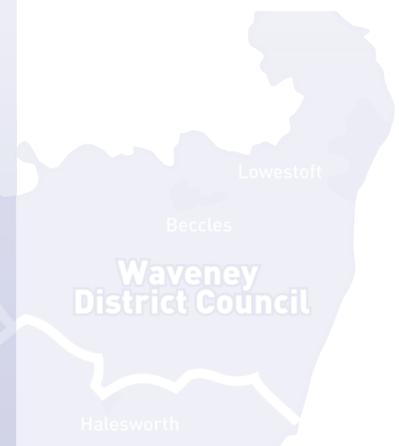
We also need to invest in our facilities, such as redeveloping the leisure centres across the district, as well as continuing to deliver our Enabling Communities agenda, which provides essential grants and support to help make our communities stronger and more able to do things for themselves.

Key to our ability to achieve this is the fact Suffolk Coastal is adopting a more commercial approach to delivering services, in order to protect our local council tax payers.

Suffolk Coastal District Council has an annual budget of about £12 million. About £7 million of this comes from Council Tax. Although we collect the Council Tax (on behalf of Suffolk Coastal, the County Council, Police and Town/Parish Councils), only about 10p from each pound of the council tax you pay goes towards providing our district council services.

We are also facing a steep reduction in central Government grants.

Rather than make cuts to services, Suffolk Coastal is committed to reducing its dependence on central Government grants by becoming more financially self-sufficient, through reduced spending and becoming more business-like in order to generate the income we need to make up this shortfall.



*“this council has a key role to play in fostering a strong economy”*



Find out more at: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/council-tax](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/council-tax)

## Message from Cllr Colin Noble, Leader of Suffolk County Council



Over the last year we have continued our transition into a much leaner organisation, having now saved more than £200m since 2010. We have done this whilst continuing to prioritise the needs of our most vulnerable residents and ensuring everyone has access to the services they rely on.

I understand the pressures household budgets are under so I am committed to freezing the county council's element of council tax bills for the seventh year running. It's possible to do this because of the sound financial management we have in place.

We will continue to face financial challenges in the years ahead and with that comes difficult decisions; not ones we want to take, but have to take.

For the coming year, we have committed a sensible proportion of reserves to mitigate reduced government funding and meet the increased demand for services, but this cannot be a long-term solution.

The Government has told councils that they can raise additional funds through the national adult social care precept and we have taken the decision to do that. This will raise £8.5m of extra funding in 2017/18 and



will help us meet the financial challenges currently facing the care sector.

It's important to realise however, that even with the precept, our funding will be less than in previous years due to reduced government grants.

Despite all that has been thrown at us, there is much to be proud of; our children's services have been rated as 'Good' by Ofsted, which is a fantastic result, 89 per cent (January 2017) of schools in the county are rated 'Good' or 'Outstanding' by Ofsted

and we continue to improve at a faster rate than across the rest of the country. We know that isn't 'job done' and we continue to work hard to make sure all children and young people can achieve their full potential.

We have also secured £150m of Government funding to deliver the much needed Upper Orwell Crossings in Ipswich and Lake Lothing Third Crossing in Lowestoft, and invested an additional £10m in maintaining the county's road network.

It's important to me to hear first-hand the issues affecting residents, so throughout the year I have visited towns across Suffolk, to listen to the things that affect you. As part of many interesting discussions residents have told me that they think our delivery of vital public services is good. I want to ensure that we continue to deliver these.

Thank you to everyone I have spoken with – I have found your feedback to be invaluable. I look forward to being out and about again in the year ahead to make sure decisions that are taken are informed by the residents of this great county.

Find out more at: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/counciltax](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/counciltax)

## Message from Tim Passmore, Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk



A major part of my role as Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner is to distribute the policing grants from government and set the policing part of your council tax. This means I am responsible for setting the budget, which includes how much you will be asked to pay through your council tax for policing our county.

Suffolk Constabulary does a great job; it's a low-cost force and offers good value for money. As with all public services, savings need to be made but I want to reassure you that Suffolk Constabulary will always respond to you in an emergency and your safer neighbourhood teams will continue to serve you locally, supported by the neighbourhood response teams and enhanced investigation teams.

In view of the enormous increase in demand that the Constabulary is facing, I have decided to increase the policing part of the precept by 1.972%. Raising the precept will add around £830K to our budget in the next financial year to help deliver the priorities within my new Police and Crime Plan which was published last month; you can read more on my website: [www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/police-and-crime-plan-2017-21](http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/police-and-crime-plan-2017-21).

By increasing the precept the average payment will increase from £173.43 to £176.85 per year in 2017/18, an average increase of a penny a day (based on Band D property).

As your PCC, my job is to ensure the policing needs of your community is met as effectively as possible, bringing communities closer to the police and building confidence in our Constabulary. My job is to listen and respond to the needs of the people of Suffolk, bringing more of a public voice to policing.

If you have an issue that you would like to raise, please contact me via the website, [www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk), e-mail [spcc@suffolk.pnn.police.uk](mailto:spcc@suffolk.pnn.police.uk) or write to me at the **Office of the PCC, Suffolk Police Headquarters, Martlesham Heath IP5 3QS. @timspcc**

Find out more at: [www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk-pcc.gov.uk)